

Sterile forms of Lantana

Horticulturalists have developed Lantana varieties that are largely sterile, however, they can produce viable pollen, occasional seeds and spread vegetatively.

The problem with the “sterile” varieties is that they can cross-pollinate with seed producing forms and subsequently create new varieties in the wild. This makes finding effective biological control agents to control Lantana very difficult, as well as potentially extending the range of the weed’s spread.

The nursery industry is being urged to stop supplying and selling all Lantana forms, instead promoting safe alternative species.

Best practice for controlling Lantana

- act quickly and prevent it spreading onto your property.
- control small infestations first.
- consider integrating control techniques by using mechanical, herbicide, biological control and fire with regular follow up treatments.

a weed of national significance

What can I do ?

- treat all forms of Lantana as undesirable and remove from your property.
- don’t buy or sell lantana, use safe alternative species.
- remove Lantana from landscaping and public plantings and reserves.

Where do I seek advice?

Advice on identifying and controlling Lantana can be obtained from your local government or state government weeds officer.



My life is in your hands, native animals need native plants. Get rid of Lantana.



These little critters shouldn’t be the only ones doing something about Lantana.

Lantana

Lantana camara

FREE
Australia
FROM
the weed
LANTANA




Natural
Heritage
Trust

The Lantana threat

- forms dense thickets that smother and kill native vegetation and are impenetrable for animals, people and vehicles.
- destroys natural wildlife habitats
- creates hotter bushfires
- spoils the enjoyment of native areas
- can kill stock when eaten (toxic forms)
- replaces desirable pasture grass species
- increases management costs in forestry operations
- causes unnatural numbers in some bird species over others
- increases soil fertility encouraging further exotic weed invasions into native areas
- provides a refuge for undesirable feral animals

There are 29 varieties of Lantana in Australian originating from the original Mexican form. It infests more than four million hectares currently in coastal areas of New South Wales and Queensland with isolated infestations in Victoria, Western Australia and Northern Territory. Lantana has the potential to spread extensively.

What does Lantana look like?



White Lantana



Pink Lantana



Orange Lantana



Pink edged red Lantana



Red Lantana

Current distribution of Lantana
Lantana Camara



(Thorpe & Lynch, 2000)